



DRAFT

**FAMILIES AND EDUCATION LEVY
LEVY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**
Tuesday, March 21, 2006 • 4:00–5:30 p.m.
Norman B. Rice Conference Room



MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Lin Carlson (representing Raj Manhas), Cheryl Chow, Councilmember David Della, Kris Hildebrandt, David Okimoto, John Pehrson, Debra Sullivan.

OTHERS PRESENT:

Nina Bowman (FSW Program), Carla Bryant (Office for Education), Jessica de Barros (OFE), Jerry DeGriek (Human Services Dept), Jessica Emerson (City Year Seattle/King County), Lilah Gael (Councilmember Della's Office), Donnie Grabowski (OFE), Sumiko Huff (Hawthorne Elementary), Patricia Lee (City Council Central Staff), Holly Miller (OFE), Sindy Nguyen (HSD), Thelma Payne (Seattle Public Schools), Patti Petesch (Parks), Janet Preston (Seattle Public Schools), Hajara Rahim (Van Asselt Elementary), Sakara Remmu (Hawthorne Elementary), Tara Sanchez (Parent from Adams Elementary), Sid Sidorowicz (OFE), Margo Siegenthaler (Seattle Public Schools), Adie Simmons (Seattle Public Schools), Jeanne Smart (Broadview-Thomson Elementary), Cheryl Swab (Dept of Finance), Diane Weibling (FSW Program)

David Della called the meeting to order. Cheryl Chow moved to approve the minutes and Lin Carlson seconded the motion. The minutes were so approved.

Summer College

Holly Miller and Jessica de Barros presented an overview of Summer College, a new partnership between the City, Seattle Public Schools and Seattle Community Colleges to offer high-quality summer school at community college campuses for high school students who do not pass the Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) this year. The City proposes to use \$220,000 in underspend from the 1997 Levy to financially assist with this program. The program would target students who score a level 2 out of 4 on the WASL; the District would use year-round strategies to boost scores for students who score a level 1 and need more help.

David Okimoto asked how many students scored at level 1 and 2, and whether there were any downsides to this program. While scores for this year are not yet available, last year 435 students scored at level 2 on reading, and 526 students scored at level 2 on math. However, that may not predict the number of students scoring level 2 this year, especially since students who were reclassified as 9th grade students due to low numbers of credits will not take the WASL this year. Lin Carlson stated this is an exciting partnership, in addition to the other summer school programs the District already offers. Cheryl Chow said School Board members are appreciative of the support from the City, and especially liked the aspect of getting students on college campuses. John Pehrson also voiced his support for Summer College, but mentioned there is a paradox in wanting to help all students and hoped there were sufficient programs to do so.

Kristine Hildebrandt asked whether Summer College students would have exposure to School-Based Health Centers (SBHCs). They will not have access to SBHCs since SBHCs are only open during the school year on high school campuses, and these students will be on college campuses.

D. Della asked how results will be tracked. The City would like to use its Levy data tracking system to track outcomes for Summer College students, most importantly scores from WASL re-takes after participating in the program. The City would also like to reward teachers whose students show improvement.

Debra Sullivan stated it will be important to have a communications and recruitment strategy. This is something the City is working with the District to create. J. Pehrson also suggested bringing college students into the program as role models. H. Miller mentioned the City is looking into working with AmeriCorps and student teachers from Western Washington University as teacher aides. Patricia Lee asked how students will be selected if there are more students than anticipated. Students who fail more sections of the WASL will have the highest priority.

D. Della announced he was going to exercise a new approach and have the LOC vote on the use of the 1997 Levy underspend, although this LOC oversees the 2004 Levy. The Summer College expense was unanimously approved.

Family Support

Thelma Payne and Janet Preston presented an update on implementation of the Family Support program. Tara Sanchez, a parent from Adams Elementary School, explained how the Family Support Worker (FSW) helped her family. Her child is now turning in homework more often, and she is now attending PTA meetings.

K. Hildebrandt asked how she decided which goals to focus on with the FSW. The goals were chosen based on the individual needs of her child. Hajara Rahim, Principal of Van Asselt Elementary, stated she did not like the goal of reducing school mobility and felt she had no control over it as a principal. J. Pehrson suggested FSWs could aid children during transitions between schools.

Jeanne Smart, Principal of Broadview Thompson Elementary, presented on how FSWs have impacted her school. Her school is high-need, with high numbers of special ed, bilingual and low-income students. She stated the stability of FSWs at a school is important in order to build relationships.

C. Chow stated FSWs must now complete a lot of paperwork and this makes their work difficult. She would also like to discuss FSW caseloads. T. Payne said the FSWs have been able to significantly reduce the amount of time they are spending on paperwork, mainly through training the FSWs on the new data tracking system. All documents are now on-line, and there is additional support for FSWs in school buildings.

J. Pehrson asked if the other sources of FSW funding (e.g., funding from United Way) are administered in a similar way. All sources of funding are administered in the same way.

Family Involvement

Adie Simmons presented an update on implementation of the Family Involvement program. J. Pehrson voiced concern about the School District administering the community-based family involvement. As a member of the LOC that designed the 2004 Levy, he explained the reasons community-based family involvement was included as a new investment. School-based family involvement has been well-established, but the community-based program is new, generated to bring in families that would not normally be involved in schools. He is concerned about SPS administering this program and the District's ability to work with organizations that have not typically trusted schools. He will be looking to see if the organizations the District contracts with are those that would not otherwise be in schools.

J. Smart (Broadview Thompson Elementary) and Sakara Remu (Hawthorne Elementary) described the impact of the Family Involvement program at their schools. S. Remu stated the Family Involvement program is a systemic program and the measures should also be systemic. C. Chow thanked the principals for their time.

Following this discussion, the meeting was adjourned.